



CITY WORKS

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City Recreation Opportunities Grow

The City of Parks and Recreation continues to expand ways to enjoy our city's greatest natural asset—the unparalleled beauty of this area.

short distance, but to feel “far away from it all” in walking along the trail threading the expanse.

Golf is coming to East Knoxville this



Victor Ashe Park currently is a busy construction site and will be ready this fall.

More than 90 rolling and partially wooded acres are currently being transformed into Victor Ashe Park. After the opening scheduled for early fall, Northwest Knoxvillians will have ready access to soccer fields, walking trails and a playground with a two-acre lake surrounded by grassy expansions and bordering woodland.

South Knoxville's Marie Myers Park, recently opened, is a 3.9-acre wooded passive area, rich with wildlife, atop a ridge off Sevierville Pike. Walkers can take advantage of the opportunity to go but a



Parks & Recreation Director Sam Anderson at Williams Creek

summer. The 18-hole Williams Creek Golf Course off Dandridge Avenue will provide a unique youth-focused program to introduce and raise the awareness of this sport to our area young people, but it is sure to become a favorite course with our adult players as well.

Walkers, joggers and bikers seem to put each additional mile of new greenway to immediate use just as soon as we open them. New miles are being added in every direction of the city this summer, and with completion of the planned projects, there will be thirty miles of greenway.



Summer Intern Zach Cochran takes a stroll through Marie Myers Park.

Mayor's Message



The James White Parkway area is clearly the most dangerous one in Knoxville. There averages more than 350 accidents per year in that area, and some have included fatalities. But the process for change is underway.

On Thursday, June 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. the public will have the opportunity to provide input. TDOT is holding an "open house/drop by" type meeting where there will be no formal presentation. It will be held at Pellissippi State at 1610 East Magnolia Avenue (formerly Knoxville Catholic High School). The public is invited to ask questions and make comments during the hearing. The proposed improvements are actually being developed as two separate projects, "Hall of Fame Boulevard (Fifth Avenue Connector)" and "Interstate 40," which goes from I-275 to Cherry Street.

I urge everyone to attend. These sessions are very informative, and TDOT will take into consideration your opinions and comments. An example is the input offered and integrated into the plans for the West Hills

area, now under construction. And that attitude has even been extended to the contractors, who keep the West Hills neighborhood leaders informed about the project's progress. Unfortunately, through this construction area as with many others, drivers were putting themselves in grave danger by making no concessions for the on-going construction, so the Knoxville Police Department implemented their BE-SAFE program. It has been very effective.

BE-SAFE (Buckle Up Everyday, Speed Awareness and Following Too Closely Enforcement) addresses the two leading causes of construction zone traffic accidents, speeding and following too closely. The campaign started on Friday, May 9. In the first three weeks, the KPD west district officers issued 1,823 citations along the enforcement zone that goes from the Papermill Road Interchange through the Gallaher View Interchange. Because of the stepped up enforcement, KPD has had a 40% reduction in the number of accidents in this area. Citations being issued include offenses for speeding, improper lane changes and following too closely, the three main factors in the 155 accidents that occurred from January 1, 2003 through May 5, 2003.

Congratulations to KPD for a successful program. And I'm sure that when the James White Parkway construction is underway, a BE-SAFE type program will be successful there as well.



Mayor Ashe and Chief Keith unveiling the BE-SAFE program.

News About People

New Hires

*Andrea C. Bakalyar,
Golf Course Coordinator
Charissa Crossley Oglesby,
Stormwater Engineer I*

Service Recognition

10 Years

Rebecca Gale Hill

20 Years

James C. Bishop

William Roberson, Jr.

25 Years

Donald E. Dailey

40 Years

Harold E. Owenby

Retirees

Marcella W. McKinney

Laura S. Russell

Dan A. Brock

David V. Mynatt

For all the talk you hear about knowledge being such a wonderful thing, instinct is worth forty of it for real unerringness.

**- Mark Twain in
Tom Sawyer Abroad**

All suggestions or comments for *CityWorks* are welcomed and should be sent to Marie Alcorn, Department of Public Affairs, City County Building, 215-2264, Fax 215-4299, e-mail: malcorn.

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Drug Bust Earns Officer Special Honors



Officer Chris Jones was named the April Officer of the Month. Officer Jones has been with the department for three years.

On April 17, 2003 at approximately 11:45 p.m., Officer Jones responded to a burglary call on Elderberry. While checking the residence Officer Jones observed a white powdery substance on the counter in the kitchen. As officer Jones was retrieving a drug test kit from his vehicle, the occupant of the home attempted to clean the counter of any residue. The field test was still conducted which resulted in a positive test for cocaine.

Officer Jones also discovered three large plastic bags that were in plain view in the rear of the suspect's vehicle. Numerous individually packaged bags with a white substance were being kept in the larger plastic bags. A total of 193.9 grams of crack cocaine was discovered already packaged for resale in 57 individual bags.

The suspect was also in possession of a loaded .25 caliber handgun and \$1,447.00 in cash. Officer Jones seized the narcotics, weapon, money and the suspect's 1995 Cadillac Fleetwood.

McGhee was charged with Possession of Cocaine for Resale and Unlawful Possession To Go Armed.

On May 15, the current recruit class listens as Police Chief Phil Keith (out of sight of picture) addressed those gathered to remember police officers who had died, paying particular tribute to those lost during the past year. In the picture shown right, Officer Robert Hembree is with the recruits, and Sgt. Ron Green is in the foreground. The recruit class graduated on May 30.

Engineering Administrative Technician Robin Hodges Details Her Experiences "Clowning Around"



Hunny Bun (Robin Hodges) clowns around with Sandy French, also with Engineering.

"Since August of 2002, I have been a member of the clown ministry from Ridgeview Baptist Church called 'The Joy Clowns.' Our main objective is to spread the love and joy of Jesus through our ministry. We perform at our own church for different occasions, including our Fall Hallelujah Festival; Children's Church, VBS, etc. We also go to other churches in the area as well as appearing at Chocolate-Fest, the Child Help Carnival, various charitable organization functions, such as walks/races, senior citizen functions, and local parades.

"The Joy Clowns have been together for several years and have been on mission trips to Brazil, Antigua, Bolivia, and Florida. We have recently been invited on a mission trip to Belize, so any donations we receive for our clowning engagements go toward our travel expenses. We hope to make the trip within the next 12 – 18 months.

"My clown character is Hunny Bun. She

is an Auguste clown, which means that she's a little on the goofy side! My friends say I'm a natural, but I'm still trying to decide if that is a compliment or not! I love to make people smile and laugh, so clowning really is the perfect avenue for me. There is nothing like seeing a little child's eyes light up when they see Hunny Bun. Some of them may be a little frightened at first, but they usually warm up pretty quickly. The adults are just as happy to see a clown as the kids are. It seems no matter how bad their situation might be, seeing a clown helps them to forget all about their troubles for a little while, at least, and that's what it's all about for me. I feel truly blessed to be a part of The Joy Clowns, and believe that this is what God has called me to do. I'm still learning all the "tricks of the trade," but I have wonderful teachers. The other members of our troupe include Susie Waddell, Anita Coward, Sarah Meredieth, Barbara Fine, and Ruth Bethea."



Three City Employees Excel in Their Arts



Talent abounds among city employees; and coincidentally three individuals showed their art work at the Riverdale School (7008 Thorn Grove Pike) Regional Artists Invitational Exhibition, June 7-8.

Ray Snyder (above) is a Rehabilitation Specialist with Community Development. He is a self-taught rag rug maker. "I got interested in the process as it is a means of reusing materials." Old clothing is a primary source of material, with denim being a favorite of Ray's. "I have done quite a bit of research into the old patterns and have adapted them to my work," said Ray. "It's really hard to find information on this type of craft, because most often those people who did this work were illiterate; so the patterns weren't written down." Ray first made rugs for family members but is now making them for sale to the public.



Carolyn Cate (below) administrative assistant with Special Events has been in an oil painting group with four other individuals under the direction of Chriss Hardy for less than a year. "I am amazed of the transformation on canvas," Carolyn said.

She said that painting is a form of discipline that she had never comprehended before. "When you learn to paint, you have

to train your eyes to look at things in a different way than you have ever seen before," she said. "Shapes, reflections, shades of colors . . . these are all aspects I never considered when looking at things before.

"This is a wonderful way to celebrate God's creations. It's been an incredible awakening."



Karen Briggs (below), administrative supervisor with Parks and Recreation, almost did not stay with pottery on first try:

"I took my first wheel throwing pottery class at the Knoxville Arts and Fine Crafts Center (a City of Knoxville program) in the fall of 1999. I wanted to be able to make flower pots for the African Violets I raise. I was also secretly hoping Patrick Swayze would show up, but after four years I've given up on that. I was not very good and was discouraged. I did not take another class for a year and continued to buy pots at Walmart!

"I resumed classes and discovered a passion for pottery, which goes along with my love of gardening...both hobbies involve playing in the dirt, and I set up a full pottery studio in my garage about a year ago. I also have a greenhouse where I start most of my seedlings."

Karen will be the featured artist for the month of July at the Appalachian Arts Craft Center on Highway 61 in Norris. (On I-75, take Clinton exit and turn right). She is also represented at the Mountain Laurel/Candy Factory, Backroom Gallery/Walnut Building and Mother Earth/Old City on Central.



Profile of City Professional: Brent Johnson, Engineering Planning Chief



Brent Johnson checks the site of recent SSO's (sanitary sewer overflows) at Inskip Norwood Ballpark. The sewage overflowed through the stormwater system along the tree line in the background.

"I have been with the city for most of my professional life. I received a BS in Civil Engineering from Tennessee Technological University in 1984, and afterwards worked in various positions before coming to the city in December 1987. I became a licensed Land Surveyor in 1987 and Professional Engineer in 1989. While working for the City, I attended The University of Tennessee in the evenings and earned a Master of Science in Public Works engineering with a minor in public administration in 1995.

"Before 1993, I was involved in city stormwater design projects, supervision of surveying crews and later administering construction projects. In 1993 I transferred to the Planning Division to manage the recently mandated stormwater programs. The dead-

line for the NPDES permit application was May of 1993 and our first permit was issued July 1, 1996.

"On July 29, 1996, I began fulfilling my current duties of Engineering Planning Chief. This includes a variety of interesting responsibilities such as the supervision of the stormwater programs, site development plan review and inspection, plat review in conjunction with MPC, the COK's portion of the KGIS, and engineering records management.

"The hardest part of the job is having the Federally-mandated responsibility to eliminate illicit discharges (pollution) to the stormwater system but not having the authority to enforce the mandate challenged by KUB. For example, the City asked a Federal Judge to determine if we have the ability

to enforce the Clean Water Act on KUB, but KUB tried to get that simple declaration case dismissed. If the City fails to comply with our Federally mandated responsibilities, we can be fined up to \$10,000 per day and are susceptible to Citizen lawsuits especially from environmental groups who have successfully won hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements throughout the country. Additionally, putting the legal issues aside, as a public servant we want to protect city taxpayers. It is very frustrating to me that KUB collects sewage, even from areas outside of the City, and spews these nasty potentially disease causing agents on City residents' homes, property and parks.

"The three most enjoyable parts of the job are:

1. Meeting people and building relationships especially with many of the hard working city employees who have become some of my best friends over the years.
2. Being able to resolve a difficult problem with which taxpayers have been struggling especially when it's been a long-time concern.
3. Building consensus with diverse groups to help formulate policy and recommend positive changes to the administration.

"My most rewarding past time is the volunteer work that I get to do with youth and college students to which I have the privilege to minister and to try to help avoid many of the mistakes that I made at their ages.

"Having grown up on a farm, I love all outdoor activity including several sports. My choices are usually tennis, basketball, rafting, kayaking, water skiing, piddling on the farm with my tractor or just hanging out with family or visiting with friends."

You Think This Was a Wet Spring? It's Been MUCH Wetter!!

The great flood of 1867 reached its high-water mark in Knoxville on March 8 of 1867. It was the most disastrous flood to hit the Tennessee Valley in recorded history. It began with a much heavier than usual snow accumulation in the East Tennessee mountains that winter, followed by a week-long thaw in late February and then a heavy rain in early March.

Flooding began in upper East Tennessee before the rain ceased. As the flood moved south along the Holston and French Broad Rivers (which meet to form the Tennessee River) it gathered intensity.

It hit Knoxville with tremendous force, washing 100 people out of their homes. The bridge across the river, built by Union troops during the Civil War, was carried away, and a number of smaller bridges around town were damaged or destroyed. A sash and blind factory, a lumber mill and numerous warehouses along the river were also wiped out.

The flood crested in Knoxville at 4:30 p.m. on March 8.

In the 1940's a construction crew working on the river bank near the Gay Street Bridge found the words "H.W.M. 1867"

chiseled in rock. They represented the high-water mark of the great flood -- 33 feet above the river's normal level.

(The "Great Flood" occurred more than 60 years before TVA tamed the Tennessee River. However, to get an idea of how far up the high water mark was, Brent Johnson said that water would be coming into the bottom level of the City County Building garage.)

Excerpt Taken from PastTimes by Steven B. Ash

**Mayor Declares May 28
"Gary Fox Day"
upon Long-time
Finance Department
Employee's Retirement**

Gary Fox had a very serious job with the City of Knoxville before he retired in May. He started work for the city more than 30 years go.

As comptroller, he has worked with the city's external auditors as the main contact person for many years. He was instrumental in the city's receiving the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting, which the city has received for 16 consecutive years.

Yet Gary's retirement party had a definite mood of levity with the Krystal-theme decorations and the mayor coaxing Gary into de-



scribing the less-than-desirable conditions in the old city hall (leading to the "adop-

tion" of a resident bug for a bowling team mascot).

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